



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 17 2009

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator
Northeast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Dear Ms. Kurkul:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's final supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) for Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (CEQ No. 20090220).

The two purposes of Amendment 10 of the MSB FMP are to: 1) develop a rebuilding program that allows the butterfish stock to rebuild in the shortest amount of time possible (but not to exceed ten years) and permanently protects the long-term health and stability of the rebuilt stock; and 2) generally minimize bycatch and the fishing mortality of unavoidable bycatch, to the extent practicable, in the squid, Atlantic Mackerel, and butterfish fisheries. Based on our review of the final supplemental EIS, we have no objections to the proposed action.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this final supplemental EIS. The staff contact for this review is Aimee Hessert (hessert.aimee@epa.gov; 202-564-0993).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Susan E. Bromm", is written over a horizontal line.

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities

cc: Steve Kokkinakis, NOAA Office of Strategic Planning